

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05246 050743Z

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6330

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5246

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, IS, PORG

SUBJ: SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK ATTACKS GOA'S POSITION
ON ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO REMAIN IN THE UN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: IN A STATEMENT ISSUED JULY 21 SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK SAID THE GOA WAS ADOPTING COMPLETELY NEGATIVE POSITION ON ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED NATIONS. COMMENT: PEACOCK'S STATEMENT WHILE DESIGNED FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSUMPTION DOES EXPOSE THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT'S EAGERNESS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AND THE ARAB WORLD AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER RELATIONSHIPS. IT MIGHT FORCE THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SEEKING TO KEEP ISRAEL IN THE U.N. END COMMENT AND SUMMARY.

2. PEACOCK SAID THAT THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT SAYS ONE THING AND DOES ANOTHER THING. HE NOTED THAT WHILE AUSTRALIA'S POSITION IS THAT IT SUPPORTS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO
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PAGE 02 CANBER 05246 050743Z

REMAIN IN THE U.N. THE ACTIONS OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT

RUN COMPLETELY COUNTER TO THAT VIEW. HE NOTED THAT THE GOA VOTED TO ALLOW THE PLO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE AND IN THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE, VOTED FOR A DECLARATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE WHICH LINKED WOMEN'S RIGHTS WITH DEMANDS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ZIONISM, ABSTAINED FROM VOTING ON THE QUESTION OF GIVING THE PLO OBSERVER STATUS IN UNESCO AND ABSTAINED FROM VOTING AT THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE TO ADMIT ISRAEL TO THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP.

3. PEACOCK SAYS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS PAYING ONLY LIP SERVICE TO THE NEED TO GUARANTEE AN INDEPENDENT ISRAEL, AND IN FACT IS GIVING OPEN ENCOURAGEMENT TO ISRAEL'S ENEMIES. HE PREDICTS THAT WHILE AUSTRALIA WILL NO DOUBT VOTE ON THE SIDE OF ISRAEL RETAINING UN MEMBERSHIP, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT AUSTRALIA WILL DO NOTHING TO TRY AND LOBBY SUPPORT FOR SUCH A VOTE FROM OTHER NATIONS. HE ALSO PREDICTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA WOULD ACCEPT A VERDICT TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE U.N.

4. COMMENT: WE CANNOT FAULT PEACOCK'S REASONING. HE HAS CORRECTLY DESCRIBED THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT'S TENDENCY TO TAKE POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE SO-CALLED THIRD WORLD AND THE ARAB BLOCK AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PEACOCK'S BLAST WILL FORCE THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN OPPOSING EFFORTS TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE UN, BUT WE SHOULD NOT COUNT UPON IT.
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